

FLD 637

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT NO.		25X1
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1. In March 1948, the Lirija (Freedom) Resistance Movement was organized by Jake Perjaku in the village of Lesh, Albania. The movement operated as a branch of the Organizata Bashkimi Shqipetar (Organization of Albanian Union) in Shkoder and consisted of 50 to 150 members, mostly farmers from Lesh and nearby villages.<sup>1</sup> Members were carefully selected from among anti-Communist elements and were assigned to cells composed of not more than six persons. Meetings were generally held at night in the homes of cell members, in barns, and in the forests. Each member was required to pay 50 leks in dues per month.
2. The primary functions of the Lirija Movement were:
  - a. To reduce the production of farm products even if it meant sabotaging their own crops and tractors;
  - b. To issue anti-Communist handbills;
  - c. To establish liaison with other resistance groups; and
  - d. To report on Sigurimi (Albanian Security Services) activity and economic conditions in the country.
3. Handbills distributed by the Movement were signed Lirija (Freedom) and contained appeals to the anti-Communist elements in the population to continue their struggle against the Hoxha regime. These messages were typed on single sheets of white paper and surreptitiously posted on buildings, walls, and fences, and delivered to homes.
4. From 1949 to 1951, approximately 25 members of the Movement were forced to escape to Yugoslavia in order to avoid arrest by the Sigurimi. The Lirija Movement continues to operate.<sup>2</sup>

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